

FOI 133/2015

REQUEST

Please see attached letter.

RESPONSE

Online Voter Registration

(1)

I. Registration applications can be made online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. This is a central government digital service and no login or user profile is required. Once an application is made, the identifying information provided (National Insurance Number, Date of Birth and Name) is matched against information held by a central government database. The information is then forwarded to the correct local authority with a verification status.

II. Registration applications can be made by post. A pre-paid envelope is provided with paper registration forms.

III. Registration applications can also be made in person or by telephone provided the applicant knows all of the information we require. Once the information is input into our Electoral Management system, the identifying information provided (National Insurance Number, Date of Birth and Name) is uploaded to be matched against data held by a central government database. The matching process is undertaken and downloaded by us with a verification status.

Annual Canvass

(2) Under normal circumstances, canvass forms are hand delivered by canvassers with the exception of very rural areas which are delivered by post.

(3) Canvass forms could be returned by post, or a response could be made online, by telephone or by text message.

I. The online service could be used to confirm that the information pre-populated on the canvass form is correct. The process involved visiting the web address provided, following the instructions and entering the two part unique code provided on their canvass form. No login or user profile is required

II. A pre-paid envelope is provided with canvass forms.

III. The automated telephone service could be used to confirm that the information pre-populated on the canvass form is correct. The process involved contacting the telephone number provided, following the instructions and entering the two part unique code provided on their canvass form.

IV. The text service could also be used to confirm that the information pre-populated on the canvass form is correct. The process involved texting a 14 digit code provided on the form.

Individual Electoral Registration

(4) Since the implementation of IER we have not carried out an annual canvass, only a transitional canvass.

During the transitional canvass the data held on our electoral register was matched against the data held on a central government database. Those electors who matched were automatically re-registered under IER and were sent a confirmation letter. Those electors who did not match were asked to re-register and were sent an Individual Registration form directing them to re-register online or to return the form using the enclosed pre-paid envelope. Void Properties (properties with no registered electors) and those households who did not respond to the previous canvass were sent a Household Enquiry Form. The majority of these letters and forms were hand delivered by canvassers, with the exception of very rural areas.

An annual canvass will be carried out later this year. However, since we have not carried out an annual canvass under IER I cannot provide exact answers about the forthcoming canvass. It is likely that all properties that appear on the register will be sent a pre-populated Household Enquiry Form, which will be returnable by post using a pre-paid envelope. Other return methods may be made available however I cannot comment any further at this time.